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HISTORICAL NOTES.

WILLIAM SAVAGE—We are indebted to Mr. Vere L. Oliver, of Weymouth, England, editor of “Caribbeana” for the following inscription. According to the Hayne Record, William Savage, Merchant, died Feb: 1778.

Bath Abbey Church, co. Somerset.
On the floor of the Nave:—

Sacred to the Memory of
WILLIAM SAVAGE Esq.
Late of Charleston South Carolina
Merchant
who departed this life February 8th 1777 [Sic]
Aged 46
[15 lines follow. He came over on account of his ill
health.]

1778 March 3. William Savidge, Esq. Under the stone with brass plate round it, in the middle aisle. (Burial register.) The above M. I. was recorded in 1872 when the flooring of the church was taken up (N^o 116 of Abbey List).

PETER HENRY BRUCE, 1692-1757—This Society has recently received through the kindness of a member, Mr. E. H. Hillman, of Venice, Italy, a copy of the *Memoirs of Peter Henry Bruce, Esq., A Military Officer*. . . . London, Printed for the Authors Widow, 1782.

Bruce was a Military adventurer, and his *Memoirs* (1706-1745) his only literary work; they are pleasantly written, and show close and intelligent observation. The book is rather rare, and neither the Charleston Library Society, or this Society, have previously owned a copy.

According to his *Memoirs* Bruce reached Charles Town,

So. Ca. in January, 1745, and remained until June of the same year.

Here he made a full survey of the place, examined the "Morass" which lay before the town, sounded Hog Island Creek, and then gave a report as to what could be done to further fortify the place. The want of stone, lime, and the high cost of labor, made the execution of his plans amount to a very considerable sum, and the treasury at that time could not support the charge; the committee appointed to investigate were of the opinion that they should negotiate a loan from England, and also petition that an able engineer should be sent them as they did not choose to trust their present engineer "Colonel Baile".¹

Bruce states that he was offered double pay to stay and carry on his plans, but "As those gentlemen were very dilatory in their determinations, and in a bad understanding with their governor [Glen] I should have met with great difficulty to please both parties."

He gave full instructions to "Col. Baile," and two batteries at "Rahtes Point" [Rhett's] and Ansons House, for the security of the passage through Hog Island Creek were begun.

He describes entertainingly the visit to Charles Town of an Indian king, or War captain, with one hundred Cherokee Indians in his retinue; and also the capture of a rich French prize by Captain Thomas Frankland; the quantity of gold and silver being so great, that the shares were delivered by weight to avoid the trouble of counting it.

THE SIMONS-SNIPES DUEL.—On page 51 of the last issue of this Magazine the name of the opponent of Col. Maurice Simons in the duel which ended fatally for the latter, is given, on the authority of *Johnsons Traditions of the American Revolution*, as Major Henry Snipes, this is incorrect, Major Wm. Clay Snipes being the other principal.

Col. Simons and Major Snipes were both officers in the

¹This was Col. Othneal Beale, of whom an interesting account will be found in *Observations with the Dipping Needle at Boston in 1722*, by Horace Everett Ware, a reprint from the *Publications of the Colonial Society of Mass.*, Vol. XIII.

Revolution, although contemporary documents show that the latter was engaged in frequent controversies with his fellow officers.

The quarrel grew out of some evidence given by Col. Simons in the trials between Major Snipes and Rawlins Lowndes, and between Major Snipes and Col. Hampton.

The *S. C. Gazette and Public Advertiser*, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1785, gives the following account of the duel:

On Saturday Morning last [Nov. 12] a duel was fought near Wallaces Bridge, by Col. Maurice Simons of this City, and Mr. William Clay Snipes of the Round O,—when it unfortunately happened that the former fell.—His remains were brought to town on Sunday last, and yesterday evening interred in the family burying ground in St. Philips Church Yard. . . .

On Friday, Feb. 17, 1786, the Grand Jury found a bill against Major Snipes, and on Saturday, Feb. 18, he was arraigned for the murder of Col. Simons, and pleaded not guilty.

The Counsel for the Prosecution were the Attorney General (Alexander Moultrie) and Mr. Smith. Major Snipes' Counsel were, Mr. Drayton, Mr. Read, Mr. Pringle and Mr. Parker. The Judges of the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas at this time were Henry Pendleton, Ædanus Burke, Thomas Heyward and John F. Grimke.

The verdict was Manslaughter, and after it was given Mr. Read moved the Court that the Major might be held to bail, which being assented to, he immediately gave bail in the sum of two thousand pounds for his appearance at the end of the sessions.

On Saturday Feb. 26, 1786, Major Snipes appeared before the Court of General Sessions, and pleaded a full pardon.

Commodore Gillon was second for Col. Simons, and Capt. Theus or Captain Martin appear to have served for Major Snipes, it is not quite clear from Judge Heyward's speech which of them served.

In the *Charleston Morning Post and Daily Advertiser* for Feb. 21, 1786, will be found the report of the evidence, with the observations of Judges Heyward and Burke. Mr.

Parker's speech, which appears to have been his first, and Mr. Pringle's, which took upwards of two hours to deliver, will be found in the same file of papers, Feb. 23, 25 and 27, 1786.

Major Snipes died in 1806, as is shown by the following notice:

Died, on the 16th inst at his plantation on the Horse-Shoe, Major William Clay Snipes, in the 64th year of his age. During the revolutionary war he was a brave and an active officer, and rendered his country many important services.—*Charleston Courier* Feb. 25, 1806.